

**Bulletin 1****School Performance Reporting****06/05/16**

The Welsh Government will be updating Local Authorities and Consortia on school performance reporting issues via this new bulletin. Through this channel we will be keeping you informed on decisions impacting on performance reporting policies and providing clarification on any complex issues. Please share this information with your schools as relevant.

1 Key Stage 4 and Post-16 cohort information

In 2016 we move to reporting school performance on a year 11 cohort basis rather than for learners aged 15 at the start of the year. As per our notes circulated to Local Authority Directors of Education and Regional Consortia MDs on 19 & 20 April 2016, we are now able to confirm that the data collection the Welsh Government will be using to capture cohort information for Key Stage 4 and Post-16 school performance reporting in 2016 onwards will be the January PLASC.

The decision to continue using PLASC data for the cohort dataset was largely due to the potential impact of the Successful Futures programme outcomes on the existing collection arrangements for assessment data via the National Data Collection (NDC) in the summer.

Changes to cohort numbers are one of the most significant changes we can make to the performance measures. It will not be in anyone's best interests to move collection of cohort data to the summer NDC and then to have to move the collection of this data once again in a few years' time, yet again redefining the cohort.

Cohort information for Foundation Phase, Key Stage 2 and 3 assessment reporting will continue to be collected via the National Data Collection (NDC) in the summer.

2 NEWBES

a) Learners leaving the UK and subsequently returning

In 2016, where a learner is recorded as having NEWBES status, leaves the country and subsequently returns to Wales, then the following advice from the Welsh Government applies:

Extension of the NEWBES status period is at the discretion of LAs. We do not however support an automatic resetting of NEWBES status for every, or all, instances where a learner might leave the country for a period of time. We would expect the LA to consider each individual case to determine the validity of any extension to NEWBES status and in considering the issue we would expect the LA to look at factors such as:

- a) How long the learner had been out of the country;
- b) What the learner's language acquisition had been prior to leaving the country;
- c) Which country the learner had travelled to; and
- d) How much of a negative impact the time away from this country had had on the learner's language acquisition and education.

Whilst our NEWBES and NDC notes do refer to the recording of the NEWBES status as being the headteacher's decision, as with other school management and management information matters we would expect the LA to verify the data being reported to us and to enter into dialogue with the school/intervene if necessary.

b) Reviewing NEWBES arrangements

We will be looking at NEWBES arrangements in partnership with stakeholders in the near future and considering how these should be shaped in future years. We will keep schools and local authorities up to date on progress with this work.

3 Discounting Arrangements for 2018

Steve Vincent, Deputy Director for Schools Management and Effectiveness, wrote to Local Authority Directors of Education and Regional Consortia MDs in March to confirm that, whilst we continue

to look at future discounting arrangements, the current list of discount codes will remain in place for 2018. These are published on our web pages and can be found here:

<http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolhome/schooldata/ims/usingdataeffectively/?lang=en>

We would be grateful if schools could continue to inform us of any qualifications that aren't yet covered by this list that will be required for the relevant cohorts over the coming years by emailing us at ims@wales.gsi.gov.uk.

4 Non-reformed/'minority subject' qualifications in Wales

In a small number of instances, where a qualification is not being reformed in Wales, Qualifications Wales may designate a qualification designed to meet criteria in England for delivery to learners in Wales. Such qualification can count towards performance measures (subject to the usual discounting arrangements, an appropriate age range for the cohort in question and designation and certification dates). Please contact awarding bodies or Qualifications Wales directly with any queries around the approval/designation of qualifications.

6 The revised Capped Points Score measure

A breakdown of the revised capped points score and an explanation of the method used to calculate this measure accompany this bulletin.

Please email us at ims@wales.gsi.gov.uk with any further queries on school performance reporting